Senator Manchin Fights to Curb Drug Abuse

March 15, 2016: Senator Manchin applauded the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines for prescribing opioids for managing chronic pain.

March 10, 2016: Senator Manchin applauded the Senate passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015 (CARA), bipartisan legislation that will combat the opioid epidemic nationwide. The final bill included his consumer education amendment to ensure that advocacy groups have access to funds they need to raise awareness about the risks of opioid addiction and overdose.

February 11, 2016: Senator Manchin introduced the Changing the Culture of the FDA Act, a bill to expand the FDA's mission statement to hold the agency responsible for addressing opioid epidemic.

January 26, 2016: Senator Manchin applauded the drastic reduction of opioid prescriptions by 26.3 million, or 1.1 billion tablets, since moving the hydrocodone-combination drugs from Schedule III to Schedule II.

January 14, 2016: Senator Manchin fought to have Jefferson County designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. The move enables Jefferson County to receive federal resources to further the coordination and development of drug control efforts among federal, state, and local law enforcement officials.

December 23, 2015: Senator Manchin sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell urging the agency to support the release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Draft Guidelines for Opioid Prescribing, which had been delayed in response to pressure from outside groups, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

November 18, 2015: Senator Manchin sent a bipartisan letter to Senate appropriators to request that any final appropriations package include necessary resources for critical substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

August 17, 2015: Senator Manchin sent a letter to the Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Stephen Ostroff, condemning the agency's decision to approve OxyContin for use for children as young as 11 years old.

August 17, 2015: Senator Manchin applauded the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) for granting additional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) funding to address the recent surge in heroin trafficking and overdoses and to help reduce drug abuse.

May 23, 2015: Senator Manchin sent letters to the CEOs of 13 drug distributors asking for the release of records that would show the number of prescription painkillers the companies have shipped to West Virginia over the past decade.

May 21, 2015: Senator Manchin introduced the *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act* to improve efforts to prevent and treat prescription drug abuse.

May 21, 2015: Senators Manchin and Scott launched the Prescription Drug Abuse.

May 18, 2015: Senator Manchin, along with nine of his Senate colleagues, sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch calling for the reinstatement of National Drug Take-Back Day Program.

April 15, 2015: Senators Manchin and Vitter introduced the *FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act* to hold the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) accountable for opioid drugs approved by the agency. The legislation would ensure that experts' voices are heard when the FDA is considering new, dangerous opioid medications.

March 26, 2015: Senator Manchin introduced an amendment, which was included in the final FY2016 Congressional Budget, to encourage Congress to invest in efforts to combat meth abuse.

January 28, 2015: Senator Manchin sent individual letters to members of the West Virginia Legislature encouraging the body to pass legislation implementing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy's recommendations to curb the tide of methamphetamine production in the state. The Board's recommendations include rescheduling pseudoephedrine products as a controlled substance that requires a prescription to obtain, lowering the monthly pseudoephedrine sales limit to 3.6g and lowering the annual pseudoephedrine sales limit to 24g.

August 22, 2014: The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) officially announced the final rule to reschedule hydrocodone-combination drugs, a tremendous legislative victory for Senator Manchin and the entire country.

July 2014: After being urged by Senator Manchin, CVS, Walgreens, Kmart and Rite-Aid stores in West Virginia stopped selling single-ingredient, non-tamper resistant pseudoephedrine that is used to make illegal methamphetamine. Additionally, Kroger stores in West Virginia announced they would limit the sale of single-ingredient pseudoephedrine.

March 13, 2014: Senator Manchin introduced legislation to ban Zohydro.

March 10, 2014: Senator Manchin sent a letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius requesting to overturn the FDA's approval of Zohydro to keep this dangerous and highly addictive substance off the market.

February 26, 2014: The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to place hydrocodone-containing products from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance, which kick-starts the reclassification process.

October 24, 2013: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sebelius informed Senator Manchin in October that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would recommend rescheduling hydrocodone combination drugs from a Schedule III to a Schedule II controlled substance.

October 9, 2013: Senator Manchin sent a letter to FDA Commissioner Hamburg calling for a full investigation after reports of pay-to-play allegations between the pharmaceutical industry and FDA officials overseeing safety regulations of painkiller medicine surfaced in the Washington Post.

January 25, 2013: The FDA's own advisory committee voted 19-10 to reclassify the highly addictive drug on the same day that Senator Manchin testified at its committee hearing.

May 23, 2012: Senator Manchin included an amendment to the *Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act* to reschedule hydrocodone. The measure passed by the Senate unanimously.